

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**PATENT****REMARKS**

In the above amendments, claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 23, 25, and 26 have been amended. Claims 2, 8, and 14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action mailed December 2, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 7, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tejima (U.S. 4,736,371). The Examiner further indicated that claims 19-26 were allowable, and objected to claims 2-4, 8-10, 14-16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

While not necessarily acquiescing to the aforementioned art rejections set forth by the Examiner, and in the interest of advancing the prosecution of the present application, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 7, and 13 to include the allowable subject matter of respective dependent claims 2, 8, and 14. Accordingly, in view of these amendments, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

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BEST AVAILABLE COPY**REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 1, 2005By: 

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